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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
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9 United States of America,) No. CV 11-1994-PHX-GMS (ECV)
10 Plaintiff,) No. CR 11-1078-PHX-GMS
11 v.) **ORDER**
12 Margarito Cuevas-Madriz,)
13 Defendant/Movant.)
14

15 Movant Margarito Cuevas-Madriz, who is confined in the Corrections Corporation
16 of America-Florence Correctional Center in Florence, Arizona, filed a *pro se* Motion to
17 Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence by a Person in Federal Custody pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
18 § 2255. The Court will summarily dismiss the motion.

19 **I. Procedural History**

20 Pursuant to a plea agreement, Movant pled guilty to Re-Entry of Removed Alien, in
21 violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a). The plea agreement provided for a sentencing range of 24
22 to 30 months. On October 3, 2011, the Court sentenced Movant to a 27-month term of
23 imprisonment followed by 3 years on supervised release.

24 Movant seeks a reduction of his sentence. He argues that the Court improperly denied
25 his motion to “remove” counsel and that his legal counsel did not “do anything for help for
26 over six months.”

27 **II. Summary Dismissal**

28 A district court must summarily dismiss a § 2255 application “[i]f it plainly appears

1 from the motion, any attached exhibits, and the record of prior proceedings that the moving
2 party is not entitled to relief.” Rule 4(b), Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings for the
3 United States District Courts. When this standard is satisfied, neither a hearing nor a
4 response from the government is required. See Marrow v. United States, 772 F.2d 525, 526
5 (9th Cir. 1985); Baumann v. United States, 692 F.2d 565, 571 (9th Cir. 1982).

6 **III. Waiver**

7 Movant has waived challenges to his sentence. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
8 has found that there are “strict standards for waiver of constitutional rights.” United States
9 v. Gonzalez-Flores, 418 F.3d 1093, 1102 (9th Cir. 2005). It is impermissible to presume
10 waiver from a silent record, and the Court must indulge every reasonable presumption
11 against waiver of fundamental constitutional rights. United States v. Hamilton, 391 F.3d
12 1066, 1071 (9th Cir. 2004). In this action, Movant’s waiver was clear, express, and
13 unequivocal.

14 Plea agreements are contractual in nature, and their plain language will generally be
15 enforced if the agreement is clear and unambiguous on its face. United States v. Jeronimo,
16 398 F.3d 1149, 1153 (9th Cir. 2005). A defendant may waive the statutory right to bring a
17 § 2255 action challenging the length of his sentence. United States v. Pruitt, 32 F.3d 431,
18 433 (9th Cir. 1994); United States v. Abarca, 985 F.2d 1012, 1014 (9th Cir. 1992). The only
19 claims that cannot be waived are claims that the waiver itself was involuntary or that
20 ineffective assistance of counsel rendered the waiver involuntary. See Washington v.
21 Lampert, 422 F.3d 864, 871 (9th Cir. 2005) (holding that a plea agreement that waives the
22 right to file a federal habeas petition pursuant to § 2254 is unenforceable with respect to an
23 ineffective assistance of counsel claim that challenges the voluntariness of the waiver); Pruitt,
24 32 F.3d at 433 (expressing doubt that a plea agreement could waive a claim that counsel
25 erroneously induced a defendant to plead guilty or accept a particular plea bargain); Abarca,
26 985 F.2d at 1014 (expressly declining to hold that a waiver forecloses a claim of ineffective
27 assistance or involuntariness of the waiver); see also Jeronimo, 398 F.3d at 1156 n.4
28 (declining to decide whether waiver of all statutory rights included claims implicating the

1 voluntariness of the waiver).

2 “Collateral attacks based on ineffective assistance of counsel claims that are
3 characterized as falling outside [the category of ineffective assistance of counsel claims
4 challenging the validity of the plea or the waiver] are waivable.” United States v.
5 Cockerham, 237 F.3d 1179, 1187 (10th Cir. 2001). See also Williams v. United States, 396
6 F.3d 1340, 1342 (11th Cir. 2005) (joining the Second, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Tenth
7 Circuits in holding that “a valid sentence-appeal waiver, entered into voluntarily and
8 knowingly, pursuant to a plea agreement, precludes the defendant from attempting to attack,
9 in a collateral proceeding, the sentence through a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel
10 during sentencing.”).

11 As part of his plea agreement, Movant made the following waiver:

12 The defendant waives any and all motions, defenses, probable
13 cause determinations, and objections which the defendant could
14 assert to the information or indictment, or to the petition to
15 revoke, or to the Court’s entry of judgment against the defendant
16 and imposition of sentence upon the defendant providing the
17 sentence is consistent with this agreement. **The defendant**
18 **further waives:** (1) any right to appeal the Court’s entry of
19 judgment against defendant; (2) any right to appeal the
20 imposition of sentence upon defendant under Title 18, United
21 States Code, Section 3742 (sentence appeals); and (3) **any right**
22 **to collaterally attack defendant’s conviction and sentence**
23 **under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, or any**
24 **other collateral attack. The defendant acknowledges that**
25 **this waiver shall result in the dismissal of any appeal or**
26 **collateral attack the defendant might file challenging his/her**
27 **conviction or sentence in this case.**

28 (Doc. 21) (emphasis added). Movant indicated in his plea agreement that he had discussed
the terms with his attorney, agreed to the terms and conditions, and entered into the plea
voluntarily. (Doc. 21).

Movant’s assertions in his § 2255 motion do not pertain to the voluntariness of the
waiver. Movant expressly waived issues regarding the imposition of sentence and expressly
waived the right to bring a § 2255 motion. The Court accepted his plea as voluntarily made.
Consequently, the Court finds that Movant waived the issues raised in his § 2255 motion.
The Court will therefore summarily dismiss the motion.

